

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is filed in reply to the final Office action dated April 23, 2007. Claims 3, 9-10, 12, 14, 21, 27-28 and 30 are amended and claims 1-2, 4-8, 11, 13, 15, 18-20, 22-26, 29 and 31 are cancelled. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 3, 9-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 21, 27-28 and 30 remain pending.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 11, 13, 15, 18-20, 22-26, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,870,537 to Kern et al. In response, claims 1-2, 4-8, 11, 13, 15, 18-20, 22-26, 29 and 31 are canceled rendering the rejection moot.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 3, 9-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 21, 27-28 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 3, 9-10, 12, 14, 21, 27-28 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which they each depend. Dependent claims 16-17 depend from independent claim 14, as amended.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims recite patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a petition for a one-month extension of time in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Accordingly, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 in the amount of \$1,120.00, (\$120.00 for a one-month extension of time fee and \$1,000.00 for excess claims fee). The Applicant believes no further fees or petitions are required. However, if any such petitions or fees are necessary, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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